

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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POLICE COMMITTEE SHOWS LIQUOR-PROSTITUTION TIE-UP

The Special Committee on Enforcement of the National Advisory Policy Committee some months ago submitted a report on "Techniques for Repressing Unorganized Prostitution" which shows a definite tie-up between prostitution and the liquor business. The report was published as a supplement to the November-December 1942 Police Chief's Newsletter, the official publication of the International Association of Police Chiefs. The committee is composed of 30 police chiefs, policy officers, sheriffs, and prosecutors, 6 Army officers, 3 Naval officers, 6 representatives of the Federal Security Agency, a representative of the F.B.I., and 6 other members. The following excerpts are the substance of the report:

"A little more than a year ago the police departments and the sheriffs' offices of the 48 states were asked to participate in a vigorous campaign for repression of commercialized prostitution.... There was but one course of action - the house of prostitution and the 'red light' district had to be put out of business.... Many law enforcement executives were somewhat skeptical of the policy of repression. They doubted, first, whether it was possible, and second, whether practical. Others met local disapproval of the plan, certain communities holding to the fallacy that a district was 'necessary' and served as a crime deterrent, particularly sex crimes. Fortunately for law enforcement as a whole, these community fears were not realized. Sex crimes, in particular, did not increase! More important, venereal infections, reported from exposure in known houses of assignation, showed a marked decline to the military as well as to the civil population....

"We cannot relax our endeavor to keep the 'red light' extinguished. The 'interests,' representative of 'organized' prostitution, are waiting for the first let-down in vigilance. They do not believe that it is possible to keep them out of business. They must learn that we are in earnest.... We are now ready to open a second front against the next important source of venereal infection. This is prostitution practiced outside the house of prostitution. Engaged in this are the street walker, the call-girl, the resident of the upstairs side-street hotel, the hostess in the cheap saloon, the tourist camp and trailer girl.... Women engaged in prostitution outside of known assignation houses are dependent almost entirely upon the 'third party.' The 'third party' is usually of two classes, an unwilling facilitator, or the parasite deliberately aiding the woman because of personal financial gain.... Who is this.

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HAS JOHN L. LEWIS SCORED AGAIN?

As these lines are written John L. Lewis, indefatigable and resourceful president of the United Mine Workers has not yet won his battle with the coal operators and the War Labor Board, but he seems in a fair way to do so. Less than 48-hours ago the War Labor Board's fact-finding committee, to which Lewis persistently refused to appoint a member, made a report showing that miner's wages are 11.2% lower than in other industries such as shipbuilding, pointed out that charges against miner's wages for lamps, blasting powder, and blacksmithing are a 'hold-over' from previous mining methods, noted that \$50 vacation pay instead of the present \$20 would be comparable to that of workers in other industries where one week vacation with pay is provided, and inferentially approved some compensation for the time that miners spend reaching their working places after entering the mine. The WLB is not compelled to follow the findings of the committee, but the way is opened for a compromise, provided both sides are in the mood.

Preceding the report of the committee only by a matter of hours was the announcement that the United Mine Workers will seek reinstatement in the American Federation of Labor at the meeting of its executive council in October. Reactions from all sides, including William Green, president of the AFL, indicated that Lewis is not going back to "play second fiddle."

Regardless of whether Lewis wins substantial gains for his miners, and regardless of what one thinks of Lewis and his type of labor leadership, it is obvious that he has scored an important victory over both the coal operators and the President and his administration. Why was he able to do it?

While editorial writers, cartoonists, columnists, and frantic writers to the 'Vox Pop' columns of newspapers were busy calling John L. Lewis names, cer'ain facts were on his side. These facts are (1) for many years miners have worked as a group. They have contracted to mine coal not as individuals but as a solidly organized group of workers. When their contract expires they walk out of the mines. They do not regard such action as a strike. Nor do the coal operators. The end of a contract is simply the end of a contract. (2) In negotiations for a new contract, Lewis asked a \$2 a day increase to compensate for increased living costs and for 'portal to portal' time, i.e. the time spent by miners getting to and from the place where coal is dug after entering the mine,

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ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Madame Chiang Kai-shek has been chosen to receive the fifth annual award by The Churchman "for the promotion of goodwill and better understanding among all peoples." This award was made by a large majority vote of the 1200 leading Americans acting as judges. Previous winners are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, William Allen White, President Roosevelt, and Wendell Willkie. The formal presentation will be made by Mr. Willkie, honorary national chairman of United China Relief at the annual dinner of the Churchman Associates at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on June 2. Madame Chiang recently received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Loyola University, Los Angeles.

The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the consumer cooperative movement will be celebrated next year by American cooperatives under the leadership of the Cooperative League of the USA with a year long Centennial Campaign, according to announcement made by the board of the directors of the league. The first cooperative society was established by 28 unemployed weavers at Rochdale, a manufacturing town near Manchester, England in 1844. Based on the theory that any group of people can through cooperation supply their own needs without paying private profit to anyone, the movement has grown until it controls a large share of the retail, wholesale, and manufacturing business in Britain. The movement also flourishes in Sweden, and until the German occupation was a powerful force in the social and economic life of Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and France. One of the first moves of the Nazis after they came to power in Germany was to destroy the German cooperatives. The movement is strongest in this country in rural areas, where farmer purchasing and marketing coops have an estimated membership of 3,600,000. In 1941-42 purchasing coops alone reported a business of \$480,000,000, a gain of \$110,000,000 over the preceding year. Other forms of cooperative business include petroleum production, processing and refining, manufacturing, wholesaling, insurance, banking, credit unions, and medical and hospital care.

When the Nazis invaded Norway three years ago they met their most formidable resistance among the clergy of the Norwegian Church. In February 1942, all seven bishops of the Norwegian Lutheran Church resigned in protest over the actions of the Quisling regime, to be followed a few weeks later by practically all members of the clergy. Two of the bishops are under house arrest and the other five must report regularly to the police. Many clergymen, including a few Catholic priests, are in concentration camps. Since their resignation hundreds of pastors have continued their ministry without State support, despite retaliatory measures by Quisling. The Norwegian Information Service reports (March 19, 1943) Quisling's Minister of Church and Education asked the Nazi labor exchange in Norway to call up "some dismissed clergy men and others who are on strike, and also some theological candidates under the total mobilization law." Since nearly all Norwegian clergymen and theological students fall under this classification of "dismissed and . . . on strike" it means that Quisling intends to draft clergymen into forced labor.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR AWARDED YALE FELLOWSHIP

The editor of Social Action Newsletter, James A. Crain, has received official notification that he has been awarded a Fellowship for the School of Alcohol Studies to be launched this summer at Yale University. The school will be under the direction of Dr. E.M.Jellinek of the Yale Laboratory of Applied Physiology and will open on July 6 and close on August 18. The Fellowship provides registration, tuition, travel to and from New Haven and maintenance for the six weeks the school is in session. For a number of years the Laboratory of Applied Physiology has been a center of scientific investigation into the effects of alcohol. Dr. Howard W. Haggard, director of the Laboratory, is editor of the scientific Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol and other members of the staff, including Dr. Jellinek are on the editorial board. The School of Alcohol Studies is a new experiment designed to give teachers, writers, and religious executives a thorough background of scientific knowledge of the alcohol problem. The Fellowships are provided by Yale University and the school will be free from any sort of propaganda. The Federal Council of Churches is cooperating in promoting the school and the Rev. Seward Hiltner, executive secretary of the Council's department of Religion and Health is a member of the advisory board.

L. K. Bishop, pastor of the Central Church, Des Moines was also approved to receive a Fellowship. Lewis MacAdow, pastor of the First Christian Church, Mexico, Mo., was awarded a scholarship. Mr. Crain will utilize his vacation for the purpose of taking the course.

CONVOCATION ON TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH ANNOUNCED

The National Convocation on the Church in Town and Country previously announced in these pages has been set for Columbus, Ohio, September 6-8, 1943, according to announcement made by the Town and Country Church Committee of the Home Missions Council of North America. The gathering will be a planning conference in the interest of developing a cooperative rural church movement among the cooperating religious bodies. The Federal Council of Churches will also participate in the meeting. The conference will be opened by an address on "The Rural Church and the Ecumenical Church," by the Rt. Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church and president of the Federal Council. Among other speakers will be Dr. Mark Rich, of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Rev. M. R. Ziegler, of the Church of the Brethren, Dr. Paul L. Vogt, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Rev. A. H. Rapking of the Methodist Church. The Hon. Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, has been invited to appear on the program and give an address. Fifteen seminars will be held on various aspects of the rural church and community, with especial reference to the relation of the rural church to the world situation. Ministers and leaders in town and country churches, church administrators and officers of rural community agencies are invited to attend. Programs and complete information can be had by writing the Home Missions Council, 297 Fourth Ave., New York or the Ohio Council of Churches, Columbus, Ohio.

CHARGE MEXICAN FASCISTS INVADE U.S. UNIVERSITIES

In the May issue of Social Action Newsletter a story was carried from Mexican Labor News, charging that the Union National Sinarquista (The National Sinarchist Union) is in reality "a native fascist group based on Spanish Falangist principles." Shortly thereafter many U.S. newspapers carried a dispatch from Mexico City denying the allegation. Under date of April 27, Mexican Labor News not only repeats the charge but declares that a group of Mexican students and professors from the National University are touring U.S. colleges and universities eulogizing the movement and attempting to lead the American public to believe that it is not fascist in origin and purpose. To back up its assertion that the Sinarchist movement is the Mexican version of European fascism of the Franco brand, Mexican Labor News cites the following evidence:

1. The National Sinarchist Union was formed by Nazi agents, including Frederich Wilhelm Heim and Oskar Hellmuth Schreiter.

2. Its policy from the beginning has been consistently pro-Axis, anti-democratic, anti-semitic, anti-labor, anti-communist, and anti-Camacho.

3. Its platform proposes a government of Mexico consisting of a Sinarchist dictatorship of schools, economy, politics, church, labor, and all other social factors.

4. Its official Text-book, "Mexico in 1960" is copied word for word from that of the Spanish Falange.

5. Sinarchism has officially designated as its enemies "democratic liberalism and communism." Only since Mexico entered the war has the platform included a hesitant opposition to fascism, on the ground that while necessary as a defense against communism, it is as yet not necessary in Mexico.

6. Sinarchism is the vehicle for every propaganda attack against the United States of apparent Mexican origin.

7. Sinarchism openly flaunts its adhesion to the principles of the Axis anti-comintern pact.

8. It draws its strongest support from recognized Nazis, Trotskyists, and other pro-Axis groups.

9. The same press which supports Sinarchism also supports the Axis or domestic reaction.

10. The Sinarchist movement has failed to make public the source of its funds or the disposition of moneys received from its adherents.

In view of the improved relations between the United States and Mexico and the probability that these relations in the future will be much closer than they have been in the past, it is important that Americans begin to give thought to what is going on in its sister Republic. Most of us know little about the Sinarchist Union, but what we do know identifies it with the reactionary elements in the Mexican Catholic Church, the Franco regime in Spain, and with the doctrine of 'Hispanidad' - "that body of Fascist aims and hopes which Dictator Francisco Franco has called the spiritual reconquest of Spanish America." (Time April 26, 1943) In Argentina the movement is particularly strong. It is anti-liberal, anti-Jewish, and pro-Catholic. It has definite connections with the Spanish Falange and has served as the focus of Axis propaganda.

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE LAUNCHES COOPERATIVE

On April 18, students and faculty of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Miss., launched the Mount Beulah Cooperative Store, with Dean Charles Mosley as president and John Long, president of the college, as business manager. For a number of years the organization of a consumer cooperative has been one of the aims of the school. The venture was undertaken following a number of meetings at which the Rochdale cooperative principles were explained and discussed. Shares are valued at \$1 each and no member may own more than 15 shares. The store will stock for sale the commodities usually found in a college store, including groceries, candies, soft drinks, pencils, paper, and the like. The new project is reported as starting off with excellent prospects. In addition to the practical service the co-op can render to the students, faculty and the community, the project will provide training for young people in the actual practice of cooperative principles with the hope that as they leave school to enter upon the responsibilities of life they will have a good working knowledge of what the consumer cooperative movement is and how it works.

NEGRO MINISTER AWARDED DAMAGES FOR ASSAULT

In the issue of November, 1942, Social Action Newsletter reported that the Rev. S. C. Jackson, of Hartford, Conn., enroute to the National Baptist Convention, Inc., at Memphis, Tenn., and the Rev. S.A. Young of Washington, D.C., were assaulted by a white passenger when they attempted to pass through a white coach in order to reach the convention Pullman. Following the incident the case was taken up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and suit was filed against the railroad by Arthur Garfield Hays of the NAACP legal committee and Thurgood Marshall, special counsel. The case was settled out of court by the Southern Railway Company paying the Rev. Mr. Jackson the sum of \$3,750 damages. The settlement was made, according to the April issue of the NAACP Bulletin, on the ground that a public carrier is responsible for the safe delivery of its passengers to their destination and for the protection of such passengers against harm inflicted by their fellow passengers if the proper authorities have been duly warned of the imminence of such harm.

DISCIPLES-FRIENDS WORK CAMP FOR HAZEL GREEN

The first venture of the Disciples of Christ in work camps will be made jointly with the American Friends Service Committee in sponsoring a camp at Hazel Green Academy, Hazel Green, Kentucky, June 18-August 13. The campers will live in the Academy buildings and will help with the gardening and with the canning of fruits and vegetables for both the school and the camp. Plans also include a mobile canning unit to aid mountain people in putting up food for winter consumption. The principal work project however will be that of repairing some of the school houses in the vicinity that are in extremely bad condition. The camp will offer opportunities to study conditions among mountain highlanders at first hand. Enrollment is limited to 15 men and women. For information address Miss Rose Wright, 222 Downey Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. Some scholarships are available.

Committee Shows Liquor-Prostitution Tie-up (cont.)

Unwilling facilitator? He may be the manager or owner of the city's leading hotel. His bellboys may be procuring women for guests every night. These same women, unnoticed by him, may be frequenting the expensive hotel bars and making contacts for their evening's work. Every tavern owner may be assumed to be in business for the purpose of making a profit in the sale of his beverages and food. If a well known bar is being used as a trygating place for prostitutes, the probabilities are that this is going on without the owners knowledge. (Sic!) He may be aware that some of his women patrons possess a 'touch of lavender,' but he is to be given the benefit of the doubt as to knowingly providing a rendezvous for prostitutes' use as contact points. This same ignorance of facts may be applied to the taxicab fleet owner; the tourist camp or trailer camp owner; the road-house proprietor; the dancehall operator, and the amusement park owner."

At this point the report takes up one by one the methods of the prostitutes outside houses of prostitution - the streetwalking, hotels, saloons, and taverns, taxicabs, tourist camps, and road-houses, with definite suggestions as to how to meet each case. The part played by saloons and taverns is described in these words:

"Legitimate and respectable saloon keepers or tavern owners will not be a knowing 'third party' to the practice of prostitution. There are many people engaged in this business, however, who believe the presence of prostitutes serves as a trade stimulant. The women may be permitted at the bars where they make their dates. They may be employed as 'B-Girls' or hostesses, participating in a share of the receipts for drinks bought by patrons. It is a rarity when a 'B-Girl' is found not to be a prostitute. Women frequently fall into prostitution through employment in bars where their salaries are almost insufficient to pay their street car fare...."

For all the effort of the report to 'go easy' on liquor sellers it is apparent that they know that the hotel bar, the cocktail room, the night-club, the tavern, the beer saloon is today the hang-out for prostitutes. The streetwalker has almost disappeared. She can operate successfully only in areas where there is a considerable number of people on the street and she quickly becomes known to the patrolman on the beat. The girl in the upstairs hotel and the cheap rooming house must make her contacts outside if she is to secure more than a few clients. The one place where she is secure from police interference is the drinking place. There she is just another customer. If she makes acquaintances she has broken no law. If she leaves with a man whose acquaintance she has made neither the proprietor nor the police have a right to interfere. Many tavern keepers, of course, know the character of these women customers and either encourage them or wink at their business. The only way to get at it is to get rid of the business. After all, the tie-up between the liquor business and commercialized vice is no new phenomenon in American experience. It is an old, old story. And no American community ever attempted to clean up its vicious elements that did not have to fight them both.

Lewis Scored Again (continued)

which frequently amounts to an hour-and-a-half a day. (3) The coal operators refused to grant the demand and the Secretary of Labor finally threw the case into the hands of the WLB. Lewis refused to deal with the WLB because (a) it has been operating for months under the so-called 'Little Steel Formula,' which freezes wages at 15% above January 1, 1941, levels on the fiction that living costs have increased only that much; (b) because the President had taken from the WLB its right to adjust wages 'to correct gross inequities'; (c) because the OPA had violated the ceiling on living costs by granting farmers increases in price on corn and wheat, and (d) because OPA in February gave coal operators a price increase sufficient to take care of the cost of a sixth day of work for the miners. When John R. Steelman, the President's special labor conciliator proposed that the miners be given this six-day week instead of the present five-day week, with time-and-a-half for the sixth day the operators refused.

When the contract expired at midnight April 30, Lewis' 530,000 miners left the mines. Confronted with a crisis, the President ordered Harold L. Ickes to take over the mines and prepared to address the nation on Sunday night, May 2, to order the miners to return to work. Then James F. Byrnes, the President's economic czar, announced that WLB would have restored its power to correct 'gross injustices,' and the OPA announced that food prices would be 'pushed back.' On Sunday morning Lewis and 3 associates met Ickes in Washington and came to an agreement for the miners to return to work under a truce until May 31. This agreement was taken to New York and debated by the UMW Policy Committee. Twenty minutes before the President went on the air Lewis announced that the truce had been accepted and that miners would return to work on Tuesday morning.

The net result of these moves was that Lewis had successfully by-passed the WLB, had compelled the President to recede from his action depriving the WLB of power to make wage adjustments, and had compelled the OPA to take action to 'push back' rising living costs - all simply by sitting tight and refusing to put his case in the hands of an agency that he believed had already laid down a policy that pre-judged his case. Whatever the final outcome may be, it is clear that Lewis has won round one by a wide margin. Time (May 10) said, "John Lewis had clearly, coldly and precisely outmaneuvered the President in a battle that was even more momentous than the people realized.... The battle was for high stakes. If John Lewis finally won it he would be the biggest man in U.S. labor.... And if (he) won, he would stand forth as a stronger man than the U.S. President, a position calculated to discredit Mr. Roosevelt and lower the prestige of his office."

This may account for the triumphant return of Lewis and his UMW to the AFL fold, which seems to be a foregone conclusion. It has already been demonstrated that there is not room in the AFL for both Green and Lewis, however, cordial they may seem to be on the surface. It is a safe guess that Lewis will go back with the leadership of the 7,500,000 workers the AFL will then have, as the price of his return to the fold.